WE CLAIM:

1. A beverage container for retaining a volume of beverage, the beverage container comprising:

a wall defining a cavity in which beverage is contained;

a rim defined along an upper edge of the wall the rim defining a mouth;

a lid at least partially extending over the mouth;

valve structure on the lid defining a valve port extending through the lid for communicating with the cavity of the container;

a valve grommet positionable in the valve port, the grommet defining an aperture communicating with the valve port for facilitating flow of beverage through the aperture and valve port into the cavity; and

a tongue extending from the grommet and at least partially extending into the valve port and movable relative to the valve port for facilitating flow of beverage into the cavity and resisting reverse passage of beverage therethrough.

2. The beverage container according to claim 1 further comprising:

the valve port communicating with a passage extending through the lid opening, the passageway defining an opening, the tongue extending over at least a portion of the opening.

3. The beverage container according to claim 1, the grommet further comprising a flange extending around the grommet for engaging the valve port.

4. The beverage container according to claim 3, the grommet further comprising a groove at least partially extending around an outer portion of the flange, the valve port including a correspondingly shaped structure for engaging the groove.

5. The beverage container according to claim 3, the grommet further comprising a generally circular shape defining a flange extending generally radially outwardly of the grommet, a generally arcuate indentation or groove being positioned around an outer perimeter of the flange and a corresponding protrusion upon the valve port for engaging the indentation on the flange to facilitate retention of the grommet in the port.

6. The beverage container according to claim 3, the grommet further comprising the tongue extending generally coaxial with the aperture in the grommet.

7. The beverage container according to claim 6, the tongue being at least partially formed of a flexible material for blocking movement relative to the flange of the grommet for movement relative to the passage in the lid.

8. The beverage container according to claim 3, the grommet being formed of a flexible material for flexible engagement with the valve port in the lid and for flexible disengagement therefrom to facilitate sealing of the valve port and removal and replacement to facilitate cleaning of the lid.

9. The beverage container according to claim 1, the lid further comprising a recess spaced around the valve port for facilitating flow of beverage into the valve assembly.

10. The beverage container according to claim 1, the lid further comprising a reservoir disposed about the valve port for facilitating accumulation and retention of a volume of liquid to prevent overflowing of the lid.

11. The beverage container according to claim 1, the lid further comprising a reservoir disposed about the valve port for retaining a volume of liquid, the reservoir being defined by at least one wall generally extending upwardly from the top surface of the lid, the reservoir being oriented for flow of liquid into the reservoir and into the valve assembly.

12. A grommet for use with a beverage container, the beverage container being of the type defining a cavity and having a lid at least partially overlying the cavity, the lid defining a valve port extending therethrough, the grommet further comprising:

a flange;

the flange defining an aperture for communicating with a valve port for facilitating flow of beverage through the aperture and valve port into the cavity; and

a tongue extending from the grommet at least partially extending into the valve port and movable relative to the valve port for facilitating flow of beverage into the cavity and resisting reverse passage of beverage therethrough.

13. The beverage container according to claim 12, the grommet further comprising a groove at least partially extending around an outer portion of the flange, the valve port including a correspondingly shaped structure for engaging the groove.

14. The grommet according to claim 12, the grommet further comprising a generally circular shape defining the flange extending generally radially outwardly of the grommet, a generally arcuate indentation or groove being positioned around an

outer perimeter of the flange and a corresponding protrusion upon the valve port for engaging the indentation on the flange to facilitate retention of the grommet in the port.

15. The grommet according to claim 12, the grommet further comprising the tongue extending generally coaxial with the aperture in the grommet.

16. The grommet according to claim 15, the tongue being at least partially formed of a flexible material for movement relative to the flange of the grommet for movement relative to the passage.

17. The grommet according to claim 12, the grommet being formed of a flexible material for flexible engagement with valve port in a lid and for flexible disengagement therefrom to facilitate sealing of the valve port and removal and replacement to facilitate cleaning of a lid.

18. A method of receiving liquid into and retaining liquid in a beverage container, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a beverage container having a wall defining a cavity in which the beverage is contained a rim defined along the upper edge of the wall and defining a mouth, a lid at least partially extending over the mouth;, a mouth structure on the lid defining a valve port extending through the lid for communicating with the cavity of the container, a valve grommet received in the valve port, the grommet defining an aperture communicating with the valve port for facilitating flow of beverage through the aperture and valve port into the cavity, a tongue extending from the grommet at least partially extending into the valve port and movable relative to the valve port for facilitating flow of beverage into the cavity and resisting reverse passage of beverage therethrough;

dispensing beverage into the container through the aperture and valve port;

displacing the tongue by movement of beverage through the aperture in valve port into the cavity of the container;

ceasing dispensing of beverage into the container; and

flexibly returning the tongue to a position overlying at least a portion of the valve port for preventing reverse flow of the beverage from the container through the valve port.